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**Media Release**  
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**Attorney General's Office announces agreement with TJX Companies over data breach**

**Wilmington, DE** – The Delaware Attorney General's Office today announced it has reached an agreement with the TJX Companies, Inc. ("TJX") following a multi-state investigation of its data security practices. The agreement resolves a 41-state investigation that explored whether TJX, owner of discount retailers including T.J. Maxx, Marshalls, and HomeGoods, adequately protected customers' financial information and sufficiently guarded against a massive data breach that placed thousands of consumers' personal data at risk nationwide. As a result of the agreement, TJX will implement an information security program to address the weaknesses in systems in place at the time of the breach. Delaware will also receive \$26,837 to aid consumer protection enforcement efforts.

"We have taken action to guard against identify theft and fraud," stated Timothy Mullaney, Director of the Attorney General's Fraud and Consumer Protection Division. "As a result of this investigation, specific steps are being taken to better protect Delawarean's personally identifiable information."

In 2007, TJX announced that unauthorized persons had obtained access to its computer systems, enabling them to seize cardholder data and other personally identifiable information. Upon investigation, a number of vulnerabilities and flaws in its data security systems that facilitated the unlawful intrusion were discovered. These flaws also allowed breaches to last undetected for an unacceptable duration. The new TJX information security program will be designed to guard against future intrusions or unauthorized disclosures.

Under the terms of its agreement with the states, TJX will employ a comprehensive system that assesses internal and external risks to consumers' personal information, implements safeguards that will best protect that consumer information, and regularly monitors and tests the efficacy of those safeguards. These safety protections include upgrading all Wired Equivalency Privacy ("WEP") based wireless systems in TJX retail stores; not storing credit card or debit card data from its network any longer than necessary; establishing firewalls or other measures to segment network-based systems that store, process, or transmit personal information; and implementing proper security password management. TJX will also report regularly to the Attorneys General on the efficacy of its program and obtain a third-party assessment of its systems.

Consumers are encouraged to report suspected misuse of personally identifiable information, identity theft, or other consumer fraud by visiting [www.attorneygeneral.delaware.gov](http://www.attorneygeneral.delaware.gov) or by calling the Attorney General's toll-free Consumer Hotline at 1-800-200-5424.

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